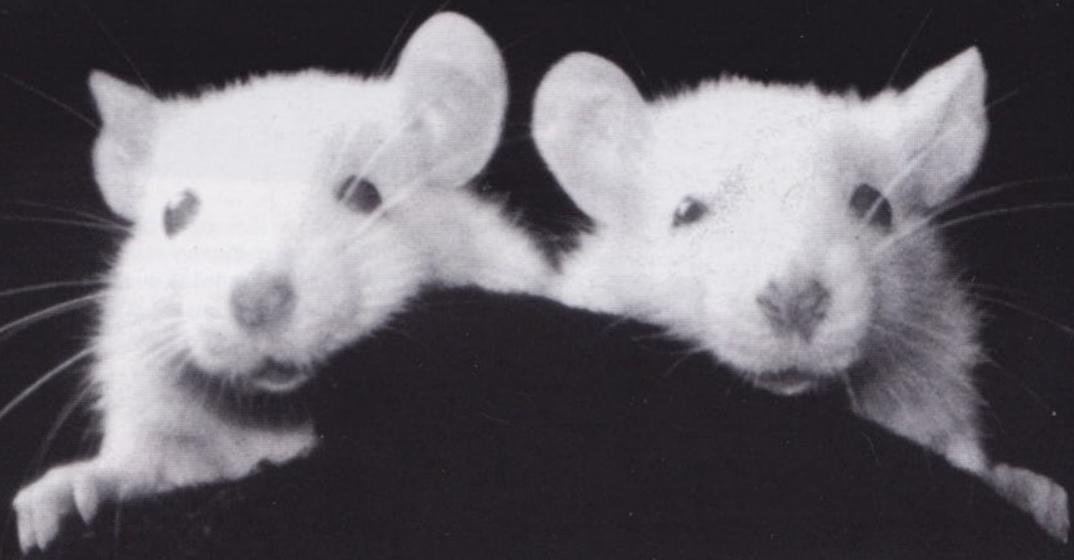


SPRING  
2003  
VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 2

# BITE BACK



JEN'S  
mom

pg5



PAUL  
watson

pg8



UNDERSEA  
railroad

pg12



ROD  
coronado

pg14



5 of 700 rats liberated on 7/01/2000 from Tucks

## BITE BACK

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*Bite Back* is a volunteer organization and magazine dedicated to the advocacy of those caught, or currently in, the underground for animal liberation and the nonviolent tactics they employ. *Bite Back* strives to create a culture of support for the Animal Liberation Front and direct action by means of prisoner aid, news reporting, and the production of inspirational stories, photos and pro-ALF merchandise.

Formed in 2002 to feed an animal rights movement hungry for ALF advocacy, *Bite Back* is all volunteer, grassroots organized, and free to everyone.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

*Bite Back* is sent out quarterly. Subscriptions are free. However donations are encouraged to keep the magazine free to everyone. Simply put, a subscription is as much as you think the magazine is worth.

When subscribing to the mailing list send an email or letter to *Bite Back* with your complete mailing address.

### BACK ISSUES

Back issues are \$2 each. Please send a letter describing which issue you would like, the quantity and the necessary funds.

### SUBMISSIONS

*Bite Back* welcomes all submissions for articles. They may be sent via email or through the mail. Articles may have an author or be anonymous; please specify when sending an article. Pictures are also always welcome. If possible, please send hard copies to the address, as email attachments will not be opened for security reasons. Videos may also be submitted for review, distribution or *Bite Back* TV featured on the website. Your ALF/direct action related merchandise may also appear in the magazine for sale. Contact *Bite Back* about wholesale rates.

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# STAND UP



### WE ARE UNDER ATTACK.

There is no other way to phrase it. From coast to coast, an overzealous, heavily funded, and politically motivated coalition of FBI agents, local and state police, and "Homeland Security" forces are on the prowl for anyone courageous enough to speak out in support of animal liberation, (let alone those actually carrying it out). From grandparents in Florida, to an expectant mother in Boston, to a young man studying to become a priest, ordinary Americans from all walks of life have become today's targets because they advocate a compassionate way of living.

Nowhere is this crisis for democracy more evident than on the frontlines of the direct action advocacy and support networks. Everyone reading this editorial knows very well that our speech in support of those selfless

acts of heroism we see in every rescued puppy and burnt out slaughterhouse comes with a price. This freedom once afforded to our voices is being taken away in the interest of what makes a healthy bottom line to animal-abusing and earth-destroying businesses - complete silence and passivity.

**THE TRUE MEASURE OF A MAN IS NOT WHERE  
CONVENIENCE, BUT WHERE HE STANDS IN  
-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR**

Today, the political agenda in the United States is controlled and funded by Fortune 500 companies, whose every destructive wish is the government's command. They wanted logging restrictions lifted, it was done. They wanted a roll back on toxic chemical emissions, it only took a few days. More subsidies for the meat and dairy industries? Sure, why not! Hell, they even got the US army to march half way across the world to liberate us some oil fields. And now they want to completely erode what little semblance of free speech and civil liberty that remains in this country. Thus, the destructive force of Neo-McCarthyism encroaches.

The Animal Liberation Front who, in over 25 years, has never injured or killed one human or animal, is considered the number one domestic terrorist threat in the U.S. Activists participating in the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign have had terrorist warning labels secretly placed on their driver's ID records, and staff members at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals are receiving early morning wake-up calls from the FBI at their homes. Animal rights activism, and groups like these in particular, are under intense and unwarranted scrutiny precisely

# AND BE COUNTED!

EDITORIAL. VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2. SPRING 2003

because they recognize that big business sets the pace and they pursue forms of activism aimed at pressuring it. From burning them down, to confronting their CEOs at home, to simply requesting they adopt more animal welfare policies, the economic interests of these companies are being threatened and, as a result, so is our right to demonstrate for social change.

Government agencies have been mobilized to strike a blow to our movement and our success. Because the ALF is so elusive, and the government cannot stop what they cannot catch, and because the activities of SHAC and PeTA are legal and still (for how long is anyone's guess) protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, these agents of repression are using their tried and true intimidation tactics against anyone they can get their hands on to slow our cause. The actions undertaken by today's FBI and law enforcement "authorities" are reminiscent of the sinister and corrupt tactics they used against earlier social change proponents. It is not hard to imagine the political environment in which civil rights advocates lived, as they were beaten, arrested, slandered, and sometimes killed by those sworn to uphold the law - today we are getting a taste of this same treatment.

David Thoreau's of yesteryear. It is a cause noble enough to give up our freedoms and comforts for, and certainly noble enough for all of us reading this to defend vocally until our last breath.

The actions of the FBI and the state are not going to stop activism and ALF actions. Even under penalty of death, the ALF would continue to free animals from torture in fur farms, abattoirs, and labs. The only power these state agencies have is to intimidate the support base of these vital actions. This means you and I. We cannot afford to let them have this power and must resist with a collective courage. It is our responsibility to speak up in support of animal rights, and direct action in the name of it, at every opportunity. It is our job to write editorials, letters to prisoners, wear pro-ALF t-shirts, and explain direct action to those misinformed members of our movement. This freedom of speech we have, if not exercised, will grow tired and lose its muscle.

The Third Reich rose to power of devastating proportions because the populous, so gripped by fear, gave up its rights. In a post 9-11 America, with a populous again being manipulated by fear, we see this dangerous trend. Our Constitutional freedoms to

## HERE HE STANDS IN TIMES OF COMFORT AND TIMES OF CHALLENGE AND CONTROVERSY!

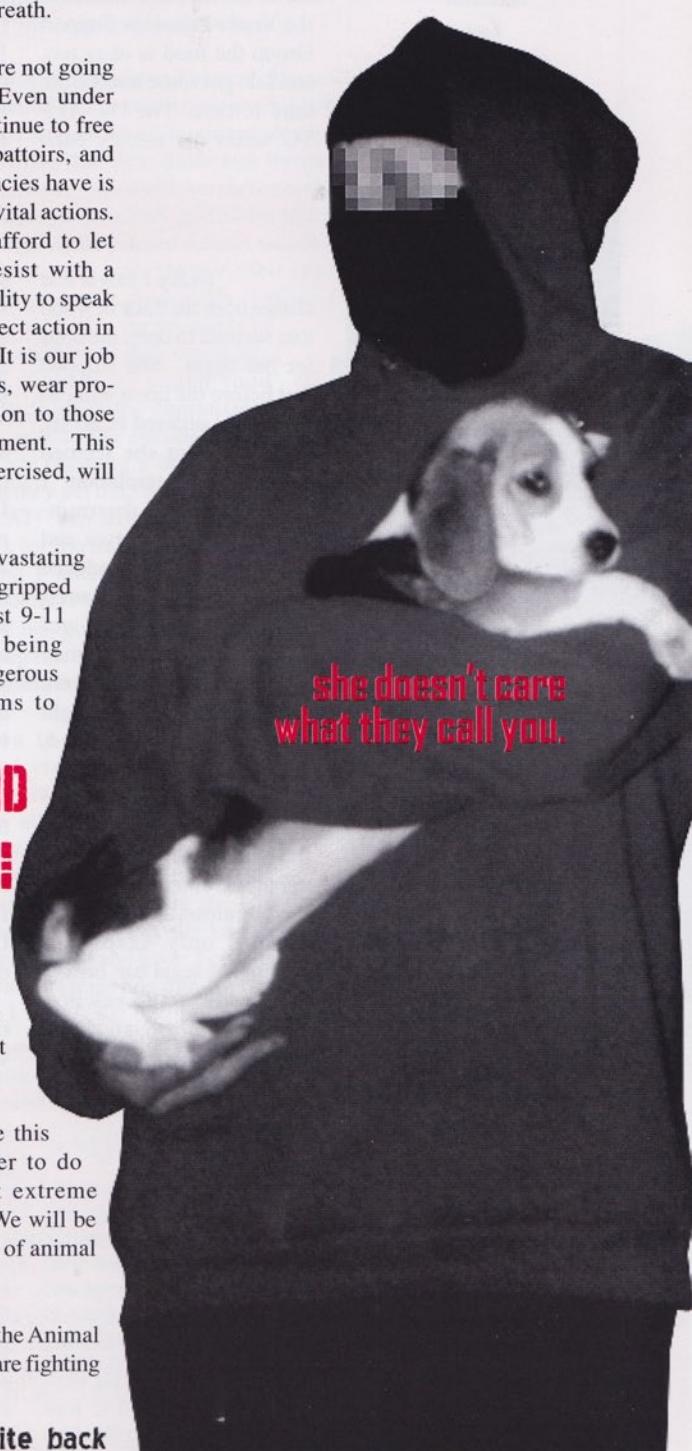
History teaches us that the police and the government are not always the "good guys" (in fact, they rarely are) and the "criminals" and rabble-rousers are not always the "bad guys." Rather, these positions are determined by motives and interests, and those currently under the knife for advocating an end to exploitation are squaring off against those defending profit at any cost.

Our cause is righteous and ethical, and the manner in which we fight for it is justifiable and absolutely necessary. The ALF's, SHAC's and PeTA's of today are just as necessary and as defendable as the Harriet Tubman's, John Brown's, and Henry

speech, assembly, and association were hard won. And we must not let them go without a fight.

Bite Back and its contributors make this pledge, and encourage every reader to do likewise: In the face of the most extreme repression, *we will not be silenced*. We will be loud. We will be heard in our defense of animal rights and direct action.

We are taking a stand. We pledge that the Animal Liberation Front, and the animals they are fighting for, have a proud friend in us.



# FROM BEHIND THE bars



## SONIA HAYWARD

KV5943  
HMP Cookham Wood  
Rochester  
Kent  
ME1 3LU UK

Sentenced to 15 months for charges relating to anti-bloodsport and anti-HLS campaigning



## PETER SCHNELL

Reg.# 994761II  
SCI Otisville  
PO Box 1000  
Otisville, NY 10563  
USA

Sentenced to 2 years for possession of incendiary devices claimed to be used against dairy trucks

"A thick wood line, just beyond the razor wire, is where my eyes wander many a morning, with my hands gripping the steel bars that cross my cell window.

## FIGHTING BACK FROM JAIL

Animal rights activists in prison never give up being active. Barry Horne went on a hunger strike to bring attention to vivisection. Rod Coronado wrote extensively and inspired a nation of activists. Keith Mann even escaped from jail and went on the run. Today's anti-HLS prisoners are no different and are still advocating for compassion

I can't believe I am getting mail from all over the world, from people who feel as passionate about closing HLS, and stopping all other animal abuse as we all do. It certainly thwarts the argument that "they will just go abroad." Thanks to everyone who has brightened my day by writing.

My life in prison is as comfortable as can be in the circumstances. Thanks to the Vegan Prisoners Support Group the food is okay too, and I do get some treats from time to time. The UK ALF SG sends me money each

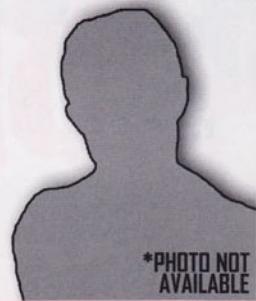
month, most of which I spend on phone cards to keep in touch with friends and family. I also get plenty of visits and post.

The course of events from my arrest to imprisonment were quite complex. All of us decided that it did not matter what happened, as our predicament (whatever the outcome) was a small price to pay for what had been achieved in our area (South East England). Our HLS shareholders have all sold. 19 hunt meets have been reduced to 6. Ligand (an HLS customer) have left the UK

(they have offices in the USA - [www.ligand.com](http://www.ligand.com)) and much else besides.

I am greatly inspired by all the newsclips I receive in here. Obviously everyone is working really hard, and their efforts combined are having remarkable results. I know Huntingdon Life Sciences animal abusers will close, and we must not stop working at it until it does.

Love 'n' Liberation  
Sonia

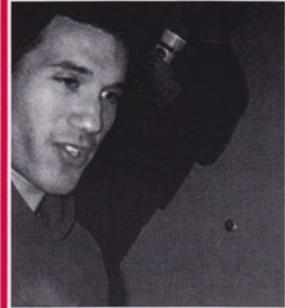


\*PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

## NATHAN BRASFIELD

20204400  
King County Justice Center  
Detention Facility  
620 West James St  
Kent WA 98032 USA

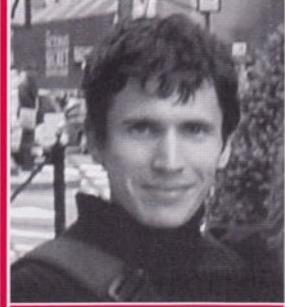
Arrested for felony theft of telecommunications in relation to the campaign against HLS.



## BENJAMIN PERSKY

140212600  
NY State ID# 9846577R  
George Vierno Center  
0909 Hazen St.  
East Elmhurst, NY 11370  
USA

Sentenced to 2-6 years for his part in property destruction at multiple anti-HLS demonstrations



## JOSHUA SCHWARTZ

31002016II  
NY State ID# 1900738L  
EMTC  
1010 Hazen St  
East Elmhurst, NY 10013 USA

Sentenced to 1 year for his part in property destruction at an anti-HLS demonstration

Today I saw a doe charge from the thick of wood that seemed to open the door for her flight. She stopped feet before the razor wire, as if she was ordered to do so, at which point she seemed to stare in contemplation. I noticed the wild determination glowing in her eyes, and I wondered. I wondered where she might have roamed had this razor wire not existed. The stream she may have ran to and sipped from. I wondered where she might have roamed, undisturbed, without fear.

In a society where all of nature holds a price tag, and animals are obstacles, resources, or mere commodities, abolition and liberation are the only responses existing. A legal ban on any one specific act or practice, the closure of any one particular establishment, and

any other obstacles, are stepping stones, stepping stones that lie parallel to yet another trail, both leading to the same destination.

Earth Liberation and Animal Liberation are one and the same. Earth Liberation is the establishment of home and sanctuary. Animal Liberation is, then, homeward bound. Deforestation, animal agriculture, urban sprawl, the domestication of animal nations, the domestication of any and all foliage, flower, or wood, are all acts of slaughter and attacks on the wild world that's quickly slipping from our fingers. These two labels, or destinations even, Earth Liberation, Animal Liberation, should always be of the same breath.

If she comes to a razor wire fence, she sees where she may not roam, and

If she comes to a razor wire fence, she sees where she may not roam, and

the breath of the same breath.

As this issue goes to print, the DOC attorney has tried to work something out but has been unsuccessful. The prisoners' attorney has met with all of them and is in the process of taking depositions, and it looks like

rights. This lawsuit could potentially open the door to thousands of prisoners obtaining vegetarian and vegan meals.

Please help defray legal costs incurred with this most needed lawsuit. Checks can be sent to Bite Back earmarked 'Prisoner Vegan Campaign' and all monies will be delivered to the firm representing our prisoners. (More information can be provided upon request by contacting Bite Back.)



# a MOTHER'S eyes

what happens when your 17 year old daughter goes to jail for a year?

My Daughter,

as I have come to learn, is the most compassionate, selfless and loving person I know. She has always been an incredible person, from the very beginning of her life; she was intelligent, articulate and compassionate. She was always the defender of the underdog, from humans to bugs.

Jennifer was arrested April 22, 2002 during World Week for Animals In Labs. She was 16 years old at the time of her arrest. I was told about it in June 2002, when Jennifer needed a parent go to New York to sign a signature bond to keep her out of jail. When I first found out, I was very angry with her, and her cause. I did not have much information about what she was fighting for. I didn't want to know. I was told how bad the judge was, I figured it was just youth complaining. I drove to New York and found out that everything about the judge was true. She was very unprofessional and rude- she refused to let the defense attorneys speak, while she called the Assistant District attorney pet names and allowed him to say whatever he wanted to say. I was very saddened to see what was being called justice. Luckily, she did not want to finish this case and we were sent to another judge. I was with Jenni for her trial and sentencing. I felt so powerless against the lies and fabrications that were being told. I just wished that I could have told all of those people that they were wrong, that this was not something that warrants Rikers Island- these were young, conscientious, intelligent people who were speaking for the defenseless animals who have no voice. The statements that the judge made at Jen's sentencing were narrow minded and wrong, and there was no correcting or informing him about what he didn't understand. Even my friends needed to be informed, they kept telling me "Hopefully she will pick better friends." Well that put me up on a soapbox, it opened up the conversation about the fact that they are wonderful friends and they did nothing that should have given them jail time - that our country is not as free as they are led to believe.



JENNIFER GREENBERG

3100201610

Rose M Singer Center  
1919 Hazen St  
East Elmhurst, NY 11370  
USA

Sentenced to 1 year for her part in property destruction at an anti-HLS demonstration

In New York City, the sentence received by myself and one of my co-defendants (of one year) is commonly handed down to people with robbery or assault charges. My other co-defendant received a harsher sentence - a 2-6 year state bid - an amount not unheard of for more serious assaults, man slaughter or attempted murder charges. It was clear to us that our case

of some broken windows was used to set an example that some animal rights activists will meet opposition from the law.

Thankfully for the animals, the message fell upon ears that couldn't care less about the judges futile attempt to protect abusers. In the time I've been here, I've heard so much exciting news from the front lines and it gives me the strength to keep my head up. One of the best ways to support a prisoner is to give them a reason to remember that we are winning! -Jen

Pam, Jen's mom, at a home demonstration against HLS CEO Andrew Baker



# DIARY OF ACTIONS

## JAN-MAY

In order to include a comprehensive diary, communiques had to be edited and some actions were removed. Complete writeups can be found on:  
[www.DirectAction.info](http://www.DirectAction.info)



### liberations.

2/01/03 (ITALY) ALF liberates 2000 breeding mink from a fur farm.

2/19/03 (IRELAND) 1000 mink are released in fur farm raid.

2/27/03 (USA) ALF liberates 115 chicks from HLS customer, Merial Select Laboratory.

3/07/03 (SPAIN) Newspapers report that over 300 mink were released from a farm in Galicia.

3/10/03 (BELGIUM) The ALF release 1500 mink in Vichte. All cages were emptied.

3/15/03 (UK) ALF liberate 43 goats from HLS supplier.

3/31/03 (GERMANY) 24 Dogs liberated from Harlan vivisection breeder, a supplier for HLS.

4/10/03 (SWEDEN) 1000 mink are released from a fur farm in Essunga, Sweden.

4/25/03 (UK) Over 1000 chickens liberated from a factory farm.

5/15/03 (SWEDEN) The DBF (Swedish ALF) destroyed all of the enclosures housing rabbits at the St Markie Gods farm in Anderslov, Sweden.

5/18/03 (ITALY) The ALF free over 40 quails from the cages of hunter training fields.

5/27/03 (SWEDEN) The DBF raided a previously raided rabbit farm in Bruzaholm and liberated 44 rabbits. The owner says he is not sure that he will resume the farm after this attack.



### sabotage.

12/01/02 (ITALY) Explosion shatters the windows of a Marsh office. In a late write-up, activists recently claimed responsibility for celebrating HLS' 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with a bang.

1/01/03 (SWEDEN) One of Welling Chicken's truck was burned down, while sand was put in the tank of a second truck by the DBF, causing \$20,000 in uninsured damage.

1/06/03, 1/7, 1/28, 4/14, 5/26 (SWEDEN) The home of chinchilla fur farmer Henry Yrnevik in Uppsala, Sweden has its windows smashed, paint thrown on it, and is sabotaged numerous times.

1/10/03 (ITALY) The ALF set fire to the entrance of RBM, a contract

animal testing lab.

1/15/03 (UK) ALF hits Newchurch Guinea Pig Farm targets.

*From Communiqué:*

"... 2 houses of Cardiff university vivisectors who use Newchurch guinea-pigs... had their houses sprayed with slogans and their vehicles damaged extensively."

1/15/03 (SPAIN) Joint ALF-ELF cell break into a mink farm in Soria and, finding all the animals they intended to liberate already killed, return to burn it down. Flames reached 35 feet.

1/19/03 (ITALY) An estimated 7.6 million dollars worth of damage was done after 90 cabins were destroyed and the chairlift of a notorious skiing resort devastated in Abetone, Pistoia.

1/22/03 (SWITZERLAND) The Amalgamation for Action for Earth and Animal Liberation attack Novartis for its affiliation with HLS and the World Economic Forum.

1/23/03 (SWEDEN) ALF hits Malmo: slogans sprayed over Mattson's fur shop.

1/23/03 (UK) 12 butcher shops had their locks super-glued in Surrey. The Danish Meat Council, Petsville Pet Shop, and the British Heart Foundation were also super-glued by the ALF.

1/27/03 (SWEDEN) ALF returns to Malmo to once again smash windows at Mattson's fur shop.

1/31/03 (SWEDEN) Nordiska fur shop in Malmo has slogans sprayed and paint poured over the building.

2/01/03 (AUSTRALIA) ALF activists break into 'Paradise Pigs' factory farm near Pyramid Hill and remove 70 sow stall gates and the gate pins from the hinges, rendering the crates unusable.

2/02/03 (USA) "Groundhog Crew" of the ALF sabotage refrigeration systems and cut the brake lines of 48 trucks of Supreme Lobster and Seafood Company in Illinois.

2/03/03 (NETHERLANDS) After a man from Breda kicked his dog so many times she died, a group of angry neighbors kicked in his windows.

2/06/03 (SWEDEN) ALF redecorates: a hunting shop has slogans sprayed and windows painted in Karlskrona.

2/06/03 (UK) ALF paint stripped the car of HLS employee Andrew Hose.

2/06/03 (SWEDEN) The Skin and Fur Center shop has a less than fragrant liquid poured inside.

2/07/03 (SWEDEN) Skin and Fur Center shop attacked again. "Murderers" is spray-painted on the wall. Liquid from a fire-extinguisher is sprayed into the shop and fire alarm starts the sprinklers destroying coats.

2/07/03 (FINLAND) Arson at feed supplier for 65 local fur farms causes over \$1.2 million in damage

2/11/03 (NETHERLANDS) In 5 Swedish cities, the cash machines of ABN AMRO were trashed for the bank's involvement with the animal lab BPRC.

2/14/03 (GERMANY) The driveway to the animal lab Covance in Munster has been painted with "Covance = Monkey Killers" by the TBF.

2/18/03 (SWEDEN) McDonald's in Malmo, Sweden partially destroyed by a firebomb.

2/20/03 (SWEDEN) An ALF cell has smashed the windows of Wold's fur shop, the last fur shop in Lidkoping, at least 6 times recently.

2/20/03 (UK) A concrete slab was thrown through the large glass-paneled front door of Deloitte & Touche, HLS' financial auditor, in Nottingham by the ALF.

2/22/03 (USA) Activists visited a Hinsdale, IL office of Deloitte & Touche leaving slogans like, "D&T, Drop HLS NOW" painted in large letters on the big white walls around the front door.

2/23/03 (SWEDEN) The ALF glued several petrol pumps and credit card machines at a Shell gas station in Gothenburg, and left spray-painted slogans denouncing their role as a customer of HLS.

2/24/03 (NETHERLANDS) ALF pays a home visit to director of Deloitte & Touche:  
"... two windows were smashed, and a big star was caused in the front window of one of the cars."

2/24/03 (SWEDEN) The director of Deloitte & Touche in Den Haag has his house and car smashed by the ALF.

2/24/03 (UK) Head of Novartis in the UK, Kevin White, had his windows smashed by activists for his company's role as a customer of HLS.

2/25/03 (UK) The home of Martin Eadon, director of Deloitte & Touche, has the wall outside his house painted with 'animal killer' and 'murderer.'

2/25/03 (USA) In Oklahoma, HLS's market maker has his windows smashed while an alarm blared in vain.

2/26/03 (UK) ALF sabotaged the Glasgow office of Deloitte & Touche... gluing the all 6 doors and spray-painting 'DELOITTE & TOUCHE ANIMAL KILLERS.'

2/28/03 (FINLAND) A powerful blaze lasting 24 hours destroyed an animal feed center supplying local fur farms in Northern Ostrobothnia, causing \$1.2 million in damage.

3/??/03 (AUSTRALIA) Jenny Hoo fashion boutique in Melbourne was targeted twice by ALF activists. "Fur is murder" slogans were painted, superglue was jammed in the locks, and red paint was splattered across the front of the shop.

3/??/03 (AUSTRALIA) Three Melbourne Ford car dealerships had cars sprayed with a corrosive fluid by the ALF because of Ford's sponsorship of a bull ride and rodeo event.

3/02/03 (SWEDEN) The DBF smashed the window of a Harfseen fur

farmer's house.

3/03/03 (UK) Activists sabotage the cars of two separate HLS vivisectors in their driveways with the aid of security lights that "helped us see what we were doing," slashing the tires, stripping the paint (and appropriately repainting "HLS SCUM") and painting one of the houses.

3/06/03 (USA) ALF attempts arson at a McDonald's in Chico, California. While the incendiary devices failed to ignite, they succeeded in shutting down the restaurant for most of the day.

3/09/03 (NORWAY) ALF cause half a million dollars in damage with arsons at two fur farm feed suppliers in Hamar and Nissedal by placing large amounts of incendiary devices under the trucks inside the factories.

3/23/03 (USA) Projectiles launched through the windows of Rodney Armstead, head of a shell company for Andrew Baker, head of HLS. E\*Trade of Beverly Hills, "had their front glass door shot out with a single steel ball bearing". The front window display of "Bobby Trendy Designs" in West Hollywood was cracked for selling fur.

3/25/03 (USA) The Rancho Veal slaughterhouse, in Petaluma California, was set ablaze for the second time since 2000, causing over \$10,000 in damages. Skylights were smashed, a door was broken.

3/26/03 (FINLAND) An arson at a fox farm in Kiikala destroys a storage building housing feed, tools, and pelts.

3/27/03 (USA) ALF redecorates the San Diego home of Claire MacDonald, employee of Huntingdon Life Sciences, with gallons of red paint and the words "HLS SCUM" across the garage door.

3/28/03 (AUSTRIA) \$46,000 worth of damage is done to the Austrian National Circus in Klagenfurt, in an arson destroying a mobile home and transport truck.

3/28/03 (USA) Philip J. Petito, Controller at CBC America, has home covered in paint and spray-painted with anti-HLS slogans. His SUV and 25 ft boat were left a mess as well because his company provides a market for HLS in Japan.

3/30/03 (USA) ALF "ninjas" smash out

the large front window and glass front doors of CBC America's California Branch Office, and leave spray-painted messages like "500 Animals Daily," and "CBC + HLS = ALF" on the building.

3/31/03 (NEW ZEALAND) The Wellington ALF smashed 2 McDonald's, 3 butcher shops and 1 Burger King.

4/??/03 (NEW ZEALAND) Seven animal abuse places were hit with spray paint, including several McDonald's and other fast food outlets, and signs belonging to a battery egg distributor.

4/02/03 (AUSTRIA) Three hunting cabins on stilts beside a golf course at castle Goldegg were burned down by the ALF.

4/04/03 (USA) The ALF burned down a meat processing room of the Illinois market being supplied with illegal tiger and exotic animal meat.

4/14/03 (UK) HLS workers visited : "loads of leaflets" and a blaring alarm are left. Afterwards, CPS fuels, supplier to HLS, had locks glued and slogans painted.

4/20/03 (UK) Roy Humphrey's recovery trucks, who sends taxis into HLS, were sprayed all over the sides and the windshield.

4/20/03 (SWEDEN) Ronneby: A leather shop has windows smashed and paint bombs thrown inside. The owner claims the damages are over 100,000 SEK. (£ 8,000) - DBF

4/21/03 - 5/26(SWEDEN) Falun: Locks glued and paint thrown at numerous fur shops, circus posters destroyed, hunting platform destroyed, vivisector Geunnel Bierflet had her house vandalized, and an egg farm was sabotaged. The Swedish ALF is too busy for the pages of Bite Back!

4/21/03 (UK) A director of Daiichi, one of HLS' Japanese customers, had his windows and car smashed at his home in Kent.

4/21/03 (SWEDEN) The DBF throw stones and paint-bombs through the window of a leather shop in Ronneby, causing \$12,000 in damages to the shop and many leather

jackets inside.

4/21/03 (UK) Activists again visit CPS Fuels, spray-painting "Animal Killers" on the wall and "CPS Fuels-Scum" on their newly paneled fence.

4/26/03 (UK) ALF "ninjas" put bricks through the office windows of HLS customer BASF.

4/28/03 - 5/03 (NEW ZEALAND) ALF activists slashed tires on the meat trucks of A. E. Preston Meats in Wellington.

4/29/03 (USA) Employees of HLS customer Yamanouchi in Palo Alto, CA were greeted with spray painted messages on the road and street signs telling them that their support of HLS will not be tolerated.

5/02/03 (UK) The director of Sankyo, an HLS client, has paint thrown on his house and two of his cars destroyed with paint-stripper and slashed tires.

5/02/03 (SWEDEN) Sweden's first and only bullfighter had his home painted with slogans.

5/05/03 (NEW ZEALAND) ALF activists visited Wellington Zoo, two fish shops, three McDonald's, Cancer society offices, a KFC and A.E Preston Meats, super-gluing locks and painting slogans.

5/08/03 (NETHERLANDS) The offices of TNO Zeist, customer of BPRC, and animal tester themselves, had windows shot out with a slingshot and "Close Down BPRC" with etching fluid on the sliding glass door.

5/09/03 (SWEDEN) Hatchery rendered harmless - brooding machines are destroyed.

5/13/03 (NETHERLANDS) Paint bombs were thrown at ABN AMRO, the bank facility of BPRC by the DBF.

5/15/03 (NETHERLANDS) A fur store in Den Haag has their locks glued, doors painted with the slogan "Fur Is Murder," and paint bombs thrown at the façade.

5/17/03 (SWEDEN) The DBF sabotage an animal testing laboratory.

5/18/03 (USA) Activists visited the Los Angeles home of Jim DeVico, customer service rep for Toxweb... his front door, front steps, and walkway up to his house were covered with gallons of red paint.

5/21/03 (NEW ZEALAND) ALF activists superglue the locks of Keith Matheson Fashion in Christchurch for selling fur.

5/21/03 (NETHERLANDS) The DBF targeted J. Floor, trader of mink and fox pelts for the Seattle Fur Exchange. Two of the doors to his house were glued, the windows of his car and house were smashed with a slingshot. Remaining windows were decorated with slogans in etching fluid.

5/23/03 (UK) Up to \$10,000 in damages were done to five fishing boats that had windows smashed and all of their equipment thrown overboard, sinking to the harbor floor, in Sutton Harbor, Plymouth.

5/25/03 (GERMANY) Hisao Konishi, the managing director of Sumitomo Chemicals, a customer of HLS, has locks of his doors glued and his mailbox filled with construction foam and the lock glued.

5/26/03 (NETHERLANDS) Activists hit Yamanouchi twice in one night, with an arson attack on the house of manager Peter van Brummelen Hilversum, and the corporate headquarters in Leiderdorp.

5/26/03 (UK) CPS Fuels directors had alarms thrown into gutters and hedges, house spray-painted and all the roads leading to their houses and offices were spray-painted with their names and slogans. A thick chain and padlock were placed around the gates one morning.

5/29/03 (IRELAND) Animal Liberation Front activists rendered over 40 Squirrel Traps inoperable.

5/30/03 (NEW ZEALAND) The ALF paid a late-night visit to the home of Hartley Vincent, furrier. Gallons of white paint were emptied over the huge gates of his house, and "Fur Kills" was spray-painted.

6/01/03 (NEW ZEALAND) In one night the ALF super-glued locks at 20 fur sellers throughout Auckland.



# PAUL WATSON

THE CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN PIRATE

photos courtesy of SSCS unless noted

Over the past twenty years, the fleet of Sea Shepherd ships captained by Paul Watson, have brought some of the most sophisticated and effective forms of direct action not only to the high seas, but to the whale of the environmental and animal rights movements. Going head to head with pirate whaling vessels, hordes of angry sealers, and even the Norwegian Navy, Paul Watson has taken the direct 'interventionist' approach to a whole other level in his attacks against the ravaging of the earth and her creatures. His exploits read like that of an action/adventure novel, as marine-life poachers are rammed, whaling ships mined and sunk, and angry brawls take place on the barren ice drifts between little seal pups and their would-be clubbers.

Paul Watson stood his ground when and where most would have backed down. He has drawn international attention to the plight of the last of the great whales and countless other animals of the ocean. He works within international treaties and against rogue nations. He is sometimes controversial, always unapologetic, and brings to the pages of a Bite Back his 25 years on the frontlines of the struggle.

**BITE BACK:** The Sea Shepherd flagship has its bow filled with cement for ramming other boats, is armed with water-cannons, protected by electrical barbed wire, and flies the skull and crossbones on its flag. Are you the captain of a 21<sup>st</sup> century pirate vessel?

**PAUL WATSON:** In a world of pirates, how can the real pirates be identified? The word pirate conjures up many images that run the spectrum from romantic to ruthless, greedy to generous, adventurous to terrorist. The question of what a pirate is, and what a pirate is not, has been ambiguous for four centuries.

I myself fight piracy. But I found that my campaigns against illegal fishing and whaling were often met with accusations that it was myself and my crew who were the pirates. I found this amusing and keeping Captain Morgan in mind, I adopted the accusations and incorporated the romance of the corsair into the Sea Shepherd image. If our critics wanted us to be pirates, then we would be pirates. To that end, I designed our very own "joli rouge" or Jolly Roger, and in the place of the crossed bones, I crossed a shepherd's staff

with a trident.

Am I a pirate? I suppose I am if there are those who call me such. But I look upon myself as a good pirate in pursuit of bad pirates. Like any pirate, I seek a treasure. But I wish for my treasure to remain in the sea, whereas those I pursue are intent upon plundering our oceans of life, diversity, and beauty.

I am a good pirate because in my entire career I have caused no death and inflicted no injury to the people who have shot at us, bombed us, beaten us, jailed us, and threatened our lives.

I am a good pirate because my crew and I have saved countless lives of creatures as diverse as sea-cucumbers to sharks, to sea-turtles to whales, to seal to cod, and so many more wonderful and valued species

**BB:** The action that kind of put Sea Shepherd on the map was the ramming and subsequent sinking of the notorious whaling ship called the Sierra. Can you recount this story for us, and the implications this one action had for both the conservation movement and the whaling industry?

**PW:** In July 1979, I hunted down, rammed, and disabled the pirate whaling ship Sierra. I did this because for 10 years I watched as the International Whaling Commission and world governments did nothing to stop a ship that was blatantly flaunting international regulations protecting whales. I found her by bribing the same port officials that her Captain did. I set out from Boston in the Sea Shepherd with a crew of volunteers and found her two hundred miles off the Portuguese coast. I chased her into the Portuguese harbor of Leixoes and I gave my crew the option of departing if they did not wish to risk arrest by the Portuguese authorities. I had 19 crew, in addition to myself. Seventeen of them left, leaving myself, Peter Woof and Jerry Doran, two engineers.

The three of us fired up the main engine, left the dock and made for the Sierra where she was waiting in the middle of the harbor for instructions from her owners on how to deal with us. I hit her at full speed across the bow to give her a warning and then I made a tight circle and hit her as fast and as hard as I could on her port side. I saw Captain Nordegen firing a rifle at me but he was not a very good shot and I was a moving target. My bow sliced the Sierra open to the water line and forced her to go to a dock. We then turned and fled the

harbor with the Portuguese Navy in pursuit. They ordered me to stop and warned me they were prepared to fire on us. I stopped and allowed them to escort us back to the harbor where I was brought before the Port Captain and charged with gross criminal negligence. I replied to the charge by saying that there was nothing negligent about the ramming because I hit the bastard exactly where I intended to hit him. The Port Captain actually laughed and said that I was technically right and he also had a problem because he could not identify the real owner of the Sierra. He said that until he did so, that I was free to go.

I returned to the United States to publicize the action and then returned in December to try and still the ship away from the harbor because a Portuguese judge had taken a bribe and ordered my ship turned over to the Sierra Trading Company without a trial or a hearing. My crew and I were unable to steal the ship away because the ship had been looted by the Portuguese police. So, to prevent the ship from becoming the property of the Sierra Trading Company, we scuttled the Sea Shepherd at dockside on New Year's eve in Leixoes harbor.

Meanwhile, the Sierra had been repaired and was ready to return to sea. It never did so. On February 6th, 1980, my crew blew the bottom out of her in Lisbon harbor and permanently ended her career. We traded a ship for a ship but it was a great trade because we also traded our ship for the lives of hundreds of whales that would be spared from the pirate whaler Sierra.

**BB:** During your activist career you have worked with, and had on your crew, many big name celebrities and up-and-coming animal rights activists (Alex Pacheco - co-founder of PETA and Rod Coronado, the most famous US ALF activist). What about Sea Shepherd's actions of draws in such famous and important support, and what sort of impact does Sea Shepherd's form of direct action activism leave on their lives?

**PW:** It always makes me smile to hear of Rod Coronado or Alex Pacheco referred to as bigger than life activists. I knew them when they were idealistic teenagers. But I also see them as examples of how individuals can make a difference. I witnessed them transform their compassion into passionate activism.

Both men have accomplished much over the years and I admire them both and my loyalty to them is





solid. I am proud indeed that Sea Shepherd was able to contribute to their education as activists.

One of the objectives that I have always had with Sea Shepherd was to use it as a vehicle to empower people. This is the reason that we take volunteers from around the world without concern for skill and experience.

Sea Shepherd is an experience that allows for the understanding that an individual can change the world. We have had about 2,000 people on Sea Shepherd campaigns over the last twenty-five years. Many have gone on to work with other organizations like Earth Island Institute, Rainforest Action Network, PETA, etc. Others have gone on as individuals to make a difference.

We have also attracted the support of celebrities and this has helped considerably. We live in a media culture and this means that actors and musicians have more credibility to speak on a wide range of issues than the experts in the respective fields. They are the media that transmit the message and in our culture the medium is more important than the message. Utilizing celebrities greatly increased the chances of a message being heard. In our organization we have the support of Pierce Brosnan, Martin Sheen, William Shatner and Richard Dean Anderson is on our Board of Directors. How can we fail when we have James Bond, Captain Kirk, the President of the United States and McGyver?

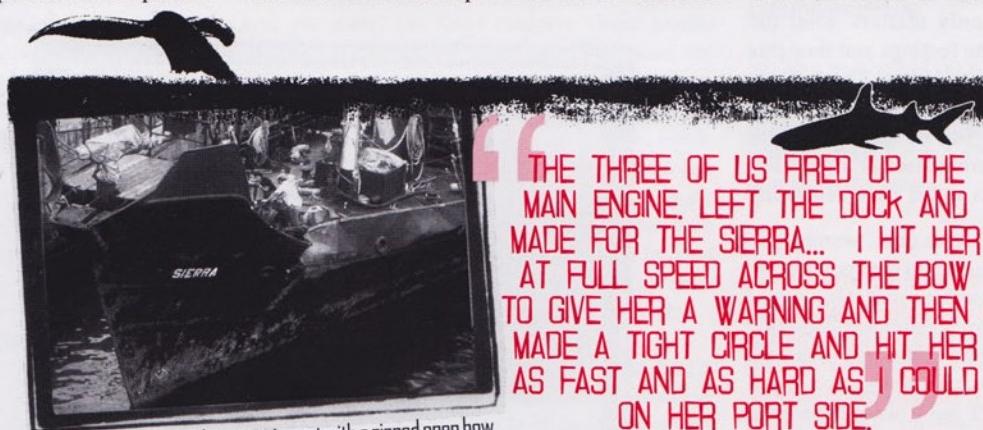
**BB:** One of the last paragraphs of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's charter statement says that "SSCS opposes and has taken a stand against violence in the protection of the oceans. It condemns and deplores eco-terrorism and other violence in the name of conservation." Considering what Sea Shepherd is famous for, the sinking of whaling ships, can you define for us what you mean by 'eco-terrorism' and 'violence' when used in the name of conservation?

**PW:** Eco-terrorism is a form of violence usually carried out by corporations. The Exxon Valdez was an eco-terrorist ship. Union Carbine

conducted eco-terrorism at Bhophal. Eco-terrorism is simply the terrorizing of the environment and those living things that are within the eco-systems under assault. Counter eco-terrorism is the neutralization of eco-terrorism. Therefore the destruction of a whaling ship is counter-terrorism. In fact, Sea Shepherd specifically targets illegal activities and thus we are a law enforcement organization.

We operate under the principles of the United Nations World Charter for Nature and, under the section labeled Implementation, enforcement by non-governmental organizations and individuals is authorized. I have used the Charter as my defense in court and I was acquitted of charges in Canada in 1995 because I successfully argued that my intervention was lawful. I have been arrested numerous times but never officially convicted of a crime. I do not have a criminal record. Reason being I don't break laws, I uphold them.

I do not condemn or deplore the use of violence in



the sierra in port with a ripped open bow

upholding justice. I refrain from it myself, and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has never caused a death or even an injury in our two and a half decade history. I do not however sit in judgment of the actions, strategies, or tactics of others. Strength lies in diversity of approaches and I support all diverse means of fighting to protect this planet and biodiversity.

I also draw a distinction between actions against property and actions against life. Violence cannot be undertaken against non-sentient objects. There is no such thing as violence against property. There is only violence against life. Destroying an object that is used to violently injure or take life is in fact an act of non-violence.

**BB:** Are you tactically and ethically opposed to the use of violence as a legitimate means of social change for the environmental and animal rights movement?

**PW:** We are a violent species. We have always been a violent species, and we always solve all of our problems with violence. There have been no exceptions. Non-violent victories are a myth. Force has always prevailed. The independence of India was not achieved by Gandhi alone. There was a violent insurgency going on against the British at the same time and Gandhi utilized non-violence as a tactic against the British for the purpose of humiliating them and it worked against the self righteous British, where it would never have worked against the Nazi's or Stalin's Communist Party. Gandhi lost many followers to violence. Martin Luther King did not win Civil Rights achievements by himself. He had the help of the Black Panthers and riots in the streets.

Non-violence works as a compliment to violent action, it has never worked by itself. Violence can only be defeated by a greater force of violence or by the strategic implementation of applied violence.

**THE THREE OF US FIRED UP THE MAIN ENGINE, LEFT THE DOCK AND MADE FOR THE SIERRA... I HIT HER AT FULL SPEED ACROSS THE BOW TO GIVE HER A WARNING AND THEN MADE A TIGHT CIRCLE AND HIT HER AS FAST AND AS HARD AS I COULD ON HER PORT SIDE.**

**BB:** Sea Shepherd often defends the direct and interventionist tactics it takes when destroying the means of ships to cast driftnets, kill whales, and harm other marine life, by citing international laws and claiming a legal authority to forcefully intervene. If the moratorium on commercial whaling were lifted (as it very well could be soon) and commercial whaling became legal, would Sea Shepherd still put its boats between the whalers and the whale? Would you still attempt to destroy the boats and machinery used to kill?

**PW:** I refuse to answer said question on the grounds that it might incriminate me. Seriously, we shall see what the future holds. For now, I intend to uphold the law and I am authorized to uphold the law, and this authorization extends to removing the illegal equipment utilized in illegal whaling and fishing activities.

**BB:** You have been quoted as saying that "Sea Shepherd is the Lady of the Night of the conservation movement. Many of our allies do agree with our objectives in the daytime but they don't want to be associated with our methods at night." How do you deal with internal criticism from other movement figures and organizations? Do these attacks on your direct action approach to conservation hinder Sea Shepherd's efforts?

**PW:** I don't deal with them. I find the criticisms to be irrelevant. Sea Shepherd is answerable only to our members and our clients. Our clients are the living beings in the oceans.

Shortly after the sinking of half the Icelandic whaling fleet in 1986, a former colleague of mine from Greenpeace approached me to tell me that what we had done in Iceland was a "cowardly, despicable, criminal, and unforgivable action." I answered, "So what? We did not sink those ships for you or for any of the six billion hominid assholes on this planet. We sank them for the whales. Find me one whale that disagrees with the action and we will no longer do such things. But until them, we could not give a damn what human beings have to say about the action."

I think that a good policy is to always think what the client would support. The client is the species that the action is being taken on behalf of. When liberating chickens, it only matters what the chickens think or feel. The feelings and thoughts of the chicken farmer are irrelevant. The feelings and thoughts of the armchair critics are irrelevant. The feelings and thoughts of the media are irrelevant. Only the chickens matter, or the whales, or the minks, or the chimps, or the trees, depending on the action.

**BB:** Industries that profit off of animal exploitation and environmental destruction are using a post September 11th /PATRIOT Act political climate to encourage the state to crack down on any opposing their violent and devastating corporate practices. Free speech and activism is under attack - and earth and animal activists are at the forefront of this crackdown on dissent. How do you deal with the "terrorist" label for Sea Shepherd's actions, and what are your thoughts on how our movements should respond, if at all, to such politically charged assaults?

**PW:** The label of terrorism is simply a label. We still live in a society, at least in North America and most places in Europe, where evidence does count for something. This could change, and if and when it does, strategy and tactics must adapt to the change. If we were a "terrorist organization" we would have been shut down by now. We have not been shut down, or even questioned by U.S. authorities so the accusations are without substance and thus of little concern. Freedoms have

always been an illusion. We have always had freedom of speech up to the moment we attempted to exercise it.

Terrorism is a definition given by a particular bias, usually by the media or promoted by those in opposition to the group utilizing the strategic implementation of applied violence. George Washington would have been hung as a terrorist if he had lost the revolution. The Boston Tea Party was a terrorist act in the eyes of British merchants. Cows and pigs and lab animals certainly see humanity as a terrorist species. In America today, simply calling for a boycott of tuna fish or farmed raised salmon can get you labeled as a terrorist.

Terrorism is as terrorism does. It is simply rhetoric. In a violent world populated by violent people, terrorism is a subjective accusation. The problem is in the categorizing of terrorism. One person's terrorist is another person's freedom fighter.

The fact is however, that for the eco-systems of the world, for the endangered species, for all plants and animals, there are no rights. I personally cannot get overly worked up about deprivation of human rights in a world where non-humans have no rights at all. Until animals, plants, rivers, and wetlands have rights, none of us have any rights at all because without

will we survive, and how many species will we drag down with us to extinction?

I personally feel that humanity is doomed. We are the last of the hominid primates and this was a group that was never very successful to begin with. Overly territorial, obsessed with trivialities, violent, petty, and completely lacking in empathy for other species. The world will be a much nicer place without us. But if we can buy time for other species and for eco-systems and if some of us can alleviate the suffering inflicted on other species, then this is a worthwhile pursuit.

Franklin Roosevelt once said (or some unknown speechwriter said it for him), "we have nothing to fear except fear itself." There is simply nothing in this world to be afraid of. It's a fact we are going to die. There is no way out. No one gets out alive. We are all future food for worms or ashes in the wind. That is the way of it all. Without death there can be no life and without life there can be no death. It is a cycle of nature and is in accordance with the laws of nature. I have no problem with death. It is the fear of death that causes problems. It is the fear of death that prevents action. It is the fear of death that causes betrayal. It is the fear of death that creates conflict, insanity, instability, and power-mongering.

Once you accept your own death you can embrace the



**the Sea Shepherd II is tear gassed by the Canadian Coast Guard on their way to protest the Canadian seal hunts.**



photo courtesy of Peter Brown/SSC

eco-systems and without diversity, rights are meaningless.

**BB:** Do you think it is too late to slow down sufficiently, or stop, the destruction of the planet?

**PW:** We will not destroy this planet. We may be conceited but we are not as great as we would like to believe that we are. The Earth will abide long after we are gone. It has survived greater pollutions than we have thrown at it. It has survived mass extinctions and it will survive us. The question is

freedom of living. Every person dies yet not every person lives. I have lived and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I have reveled in the adventure, I have enjoyed the passions, the appetites, the taste, the feels of, smells of, sights of life and it is profoundly wondrous - incredibly so.

The freedom that comes with the acceptance of death gives you the strength to dismiss your critics, to spit in the eye of your oppressor and dare to tackle any challenge. You have the freedom to dare



to fail and you have the courage to win, to overtake, to overcome, to make a difference and you have the freedom to choose how your life will run its course and you have the freedom to make your death into a statement.

**BB:** Over the years you have faced serious charges from various countries, have been arrested and imprisoned by Interpol, and at one point were looking at a life sentence in foreign jail. What did you do psychologically to cope with such prospects, and what words of comfort can you extend to those currently serving political sentences?

PW: Going to jail is simply the price of doing business as an activist. When Ralph Waldo Emerson asked Henry David Thoreau what was he doing in jail? Thoreau replied, "What are you doing out there Henry David?"

Jail is not always bad. I used my jail time in the Netherlands to launch a campaign against Norwegian whaling and I created more media stories in jail then out. Jail and prison are life experiences and like any experience it can be pleasant or unpleasant, hard or easy, interesting or boring, depending on the psychology of the person imprisoned.

People can adjust to any environment if required. Prison is an environment and the best thing to do in any environment is to find a niche and survive. And, if possible, find the means to flourish. Prison also provides insight into the state of conditions for all the animals imprisoned on farms, ranches, zoos, laboratories, game parks, petting zoos, and aquariums. Most of the world's citizens spend their entire life in captivity. The death penalty is the most common sentence given to non-humans after serving their time.

**BB:** What has been your favorite Sea Shepherd campaign?

PW: I have no real favorite campaigns. I have organized and led hundreds of campaigns and they have all been important. I think our most successful campaigns have involved the sinking of whaling ships. In 1983 we blockaded the Canadian sealing fleet and we were responsible for the sealers falling 76,000 seals short of their quota. I do like that we have a history of first achievements. We were the first ship to go to the seal hunt to rescue seals. We were the first conservation group to invade Soviet Siberia to get evidence on illegal whaling. We were the first conservation organization to partner with Central and South American National Parks to fight poachers.

**BB:** What tactical and motivational advice can you offer, from your 25 years on the frontlines of direct action battles, to those new activists getting

#### involved in the fight for animal rights and the earth?

PW: Number one. Don't get caught. Number two, don't trot out the tired rhetoric of the left. People don't want to hear about capitalism and imperialism - all the talk changes nothing. The United States is not a capitalist country. It is corporate socialism. Government of the corporations, for the corporations, and by the corporations. Calling these corporate welfare bums capitalists is complimenting them. Check out the video Tucker with Jeff Bridges to see how corporate socialism deals with a real genuine capitalist entrepreneur like Tucker. A conspiracy of big automotive manufacturers and a powerful Michigan Senator hamstrung Tucker.

I describe myself as a conservative because the root is conserve and the ultimate conservative is a conservationist. I am also a Republican in the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt. George Bush is not a conservative or a Republican. He is a radical right wing Christian Fundamentalist. Just because the right wing Jesus weirdos have hijacked the Grand Old Party, this does not make them Republicans. The Democrats are gutless semi-left wing Jesus weirdos. You only have one party in power in that Parliament of whores in Washington D.C. and that party is called either the Demopublicans or the Republicrats.

And put away the tired rhetoric about social justice. All people are the same. The poor are simply wannabe rich people. The oppressed are simply wannabe oppressors. People share the same vices and virtues regardless of class, color, sex or religion. Look at Slavery. The blame lies with both races. Europeans never captured a single slave. They bought them from black Africans who captured them to sell as slaves. American Indians were slaughtering each other and stealing each other's land long before white people arrived.

Why should I care about a Taliban or Saudi woman? Most of them embrace the primitive concepts of Islam. They are like beaten wives who defend the violence of their husbands. I reject all of these ridiculous anthropocentric monkey god religions. When these holier than thou types fight each other, it is a distraction and changes nothing. Whites, Blacks, Indians, Asians, etc. are all the same - we are all a bunch of self-centered, over self-gloryified, conceited naked apes, all divine legends in our own mind and all confused in our pathetic little primate brains about what this world is all about.

All that matters are the laws of ecology. The law of diversity of species. The law of interdependence of species. The law of finite resources. The law that the interest of a species must take precedence over the individual rights of a single individual of any species. The law that says you don't shit in

the collective waterhole.

All problems are trivial compared to the one most important of all issues - the escalating diminishment of global bio-diversity. And there is only one cause for this problem and that is out of control human population growth.

Life style changes needed are in this order. These are my ten commandments.

1. Don't bring any more humans into being. There are enough of us.
2. Spay and neuter every domestic animal possible. There are enough of them.
3. Go vegan and reduce your consumption of resources.
4. Dare to think outside the matrix i.e. outside the dominant paradigm created by mass media, industry and government.
5. Make your life count for something before you die.
6. Live your life in accordance to the laws of ecology.
7. Reject anthropocentrism and adopt a biocentric perspective.
8. Dare to fail. Dare to live. Dare to be immune from the opinions of humanity.
9. Love this life. It's the only one you will ever have so take advantage of it while you can.
10. Don't get caught by the forces of anthropocentrism.

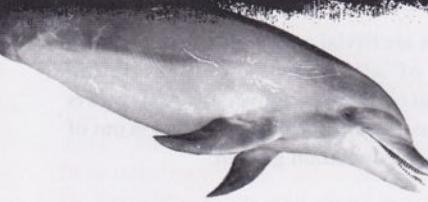
We live in a world populated by tens of millions of species and until all of these species are given some semblance of rights, at least the right to survive, then I can't get very worked up about human rights issues.

Yes, I know, there are those out there now reading this and they are in violent disagreement with what I have said. You are entitled to believe whatever you wish but don't expect everyone to swallow the same horseshit. The sooner people begin to think as individuals and stop following the anthropocentric Pied Piper, the better off this world will be.

And here's the bottom line. Unless you are prepared to risk your life, unless you are prepared to endure imprisonment, you have absolutely no business being an activist. This movement does not need cowards. The movement needs discipline, security, and a steadfast martial spirit. We also need to understand that we must agree to disagree. Not everyone has the same values and there are so few of us and so many in opposition to us that we need to ignore inside detractors and concentrate exclusively on the real enemy - those who are destroying life on this planet.

# PUKA & KEA

HOW A COUPLE OF GUYS, TWO DOLPHINS AND A VOLKSWAGON BUS BROUGHT ANIMAL LIBERATION TO THE US.



**B**efore many of us in the current generation of animal rights freedom fighters were born, before *Free the Animals*, and long before the term “open rescue” had been coined, a couple of students at the University of Hawaii had an idea. Cetacean liberation, they called it. A simple idea really, that keeping intelligent, sentient animals captive for entertainment and research was unacceptable and should be stopped. Dubbing themselves “The Undersea Railroad” they put this idea into practice on the night of May 29, 1977.

Steve Sipman and Ken LeVasseur, the two founding spokespeople for The Undersea Railroad, were unconventional scientists and animal liberationists. They were hippie surfers who were helping Dr. Louis Herman study dolphin communication ability at the Kewalo Basin Marine Animal Research Laboratory, and spending their off hours wondering what the animals were thinking as they rode the waves in ways the researchers could only imagine. As Herman, who kept his dolphin subjects, Puka and Kea, in small, cement isolation tanks constantly, attempted to induce better cooperation from Puka by depriving her of toys, Steve began to rebel against the scientist.

At first, Steve filled Puka’s tank with Frisbees, defying Herman’s direct order. Herman called Steve into the main office and told him he was becoming too attached to the dolphins and to get in line with the research or find another job. The lab was both Steve’s office and home, and the threat was real. Still, at night, listening to Puka and Kea cry out in loneliness for the life they had lost when they were abducted from the Gulf of Mexico to become prisoners of science, it was not enough to keep his real loyalties from coming to the surface.

One evening, after Steve unsuccessfully attempted to calm the dolphin cries, he realized toys and company would never be enough. For months, employees of the lab had joked that one morning they would come in and find Puka and Kea liberated by Steve and his cohort Kenny. Steve called a

like-minded friend and told him it was time to prove them right.

The logistics of releasing two captive dolphins into the ocean were complicated. First, Steve and Kenny had to teach the dolphins how to procure their own food. This was doubly challenging since the dolphins were used to being hand fed frozen fish and the cement tanks were too small to simulate the ocean conditions anyway. Still after weeks of extra feedings, and

The plan for the liberation was simple. It would be like cleaning the tanks, except instead of placing Puka and Kea into their holding tank, the dolphins would be placed in Steve’s VW van and driven to freedom. Working from the culture of aloha rather than the culture of security, the team asked a friendly seeming boater if he would help out by transporting the dolphins into open water on the night chosen. The boater agreed.

Unfortunately, the actual liberation was not to be that simple. For the weekly tank cleaning, the dolphins were lifted by winch and moved into their holding tank. The evening before the liberation, the team attempted a practice run. During the run, the winch broke. However, the team had made a promise to Puka and Kea that they would be free, and time was running out. The liberation was planned for a Thursday evening of a holiday weekend, and on the next Monday, a new employee was set to move into the lab. The liberation had to go on as scheduled.

The team met at a local Woolworth’s to think. In the end, they decided to drain the tanks, and lift the dolphins out using their own strength and determination. They hoped that the kinship Steve and Kenny had developed with the dolphins would keep Puka and Kea calm enough to go along with the effort. However,

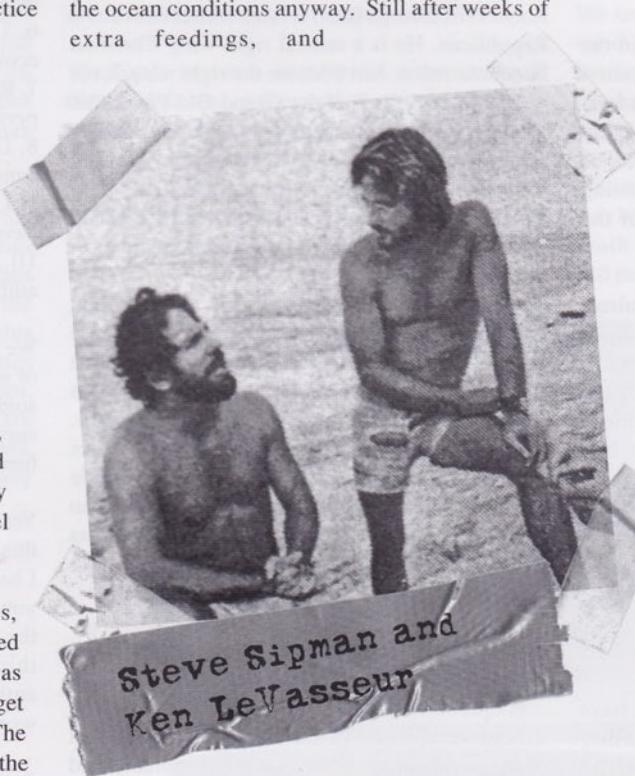
draining the tanks would take hours, and they would not be able to drive the dolphins to the marina, move them into a boat, and release them into open water all before sunrise. Instead, they would have to pick a nearby protected bay and release them there, hoping the dolphins would swim away to safety.

The next question was how to actually transport the two dolphins from the laboratory to the open ocean. Steve and Kenny knew that even moving the dolphins from their tanks was often an all day production, since moving them and cleaning the tanks was part of the men’s job descriptions. Fortunately, that experience had taught them tricks to make the process go a bit faster.

Nervous, they all looked around at each other and checked their resolve. Out of the corner of his eye one man saw something and began to laugh. Next to them, in the aisle, was a shelf of inflatable dolphins. This was a good sign for the team. They

by sarahjane blum

sarahjane blum is the author of a forthcoming history of the undersea railroad



exercises in which the

dolphins natural instincts were honed, Puka and Kea had convinced the team it was time.



“For months, employees of the lab had joked that one morning they would come in and find Puka and Kea liberated by Steve and his cohort Kenny. Steve called a like-minded friend and told him it was time to prove them right.”

purchased two, walked out, and knew everything was going to work out.

That evening, the laboratory staff left for the long weekend. Steve and Kenny waved them goodbye and quickly began to drain the cages, all the while trying to calm Puka and Kea. The rest of the team arrived with supplies. Foam to place under the dolphins for transport, ropes to help lift them out of the tanks, wet sheets to keep their sensitive skin moist and cool, and treats for the two animals. The hard work of hoisting and moving the animals went remarkably easily. The team was running on adrenaline and Puka and Kea seemed to know they were heading for a better life. The hours flew by, and soon enough, it was time to say a final goodbye to the laboratory. The team blew up the inflatable dolphins, placed them and Frisbees in the drained tanks, and executed their final task. On the employee blackboard, they wrote “gone surfing. Puka, Kea, Kenny and Steve.” The blackboard would be found by a very confused lab manager called into work by Steve the next day.

The team took off and drove to shore. Dressed for surfing, they carefully carried the dolphins on their padding into the water. Steve and Kenny paddled out on surfboards away from shore with the treats.

It was now time to coax Puka and Kea into open water and introduce them to their life of freedom. Before they had the chance Puka took off into the ocean, and they watched her disappear into the blue horizon. But Kea, always the more gentle of the two, stayed near the only two humans she could call friends. When they had brought her out what they deemed a pretty safe distance from shore, they returned to land ready to turn themselves in to the authorities and hold a press conference.

Though Kea swam near shore for days, and was the delight of Hawaiian families and surfers alike, she eluded recapture by Herman and his team. Both Puka and Kea were often spotted in the waters off Hawaii, swimming free and healthy. After saying goodbye to their friends, and before their press conference, the undersea railroad released the following statement to the press:

“Early this morning two slaves were freed in Honolulu. They had been kept in a circular enclosure five ft. high for the last six years, during which time they were kept in total isolation while undergoing remorseless experiments.

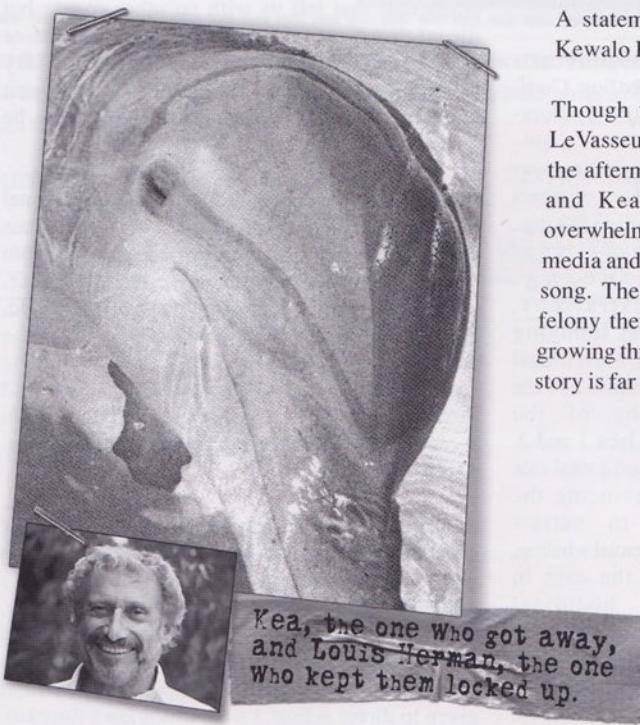
These innocent prisoners were Bottlenose dolphins, the same species as the famed ‘Flipper’. These dolphins possess a highly developed language and intelligence compared to that of a human.

The dolphins were safely transported to a carefully chosen location where they will start a new life of freedom. They will never again know the nets of a captor or the relentless probing of scientific research.

A statement of our feelings was left at the Kewalo Basin Marine Animal Research Lab.”

Though the names Steve Sipman and Ken LeVasseur have faded into relative obscurity, the aftermath of the daring liberation of Puka and Kea by the undersea railroad was overwhelming. The event garnered international media and was the focus of a popular Hawaiian song. The two men were tried and convicted of felony theft, over international protest by the growing throngs of animal rights activists. Their story is far from over as they continue to oppose

Herman’s laboratory and his enslavement of dolphin after dolphin. Whatever they do, their actions the night of May 27, 1977 should continue to remind generations of activists that animal liberation can and should happen in the least likely of places.



# the FINAL WORD

BY ROD CORONADO

**DAVID HOWITT  
AND I  
BOARDED THE  
ICELANDIC  
WHALING SHIPS**  
**not to chain  
ourselves to the  
harpoon cannons  
or block the ships  
departure,**  
**BUT TO  
SINK  
THE  
PIRATE  
WHALERS**



a whaling vessel slowly sinking in Iceland

**W**hen Cleveland Amory's Fund for Animals sponsored Paul Watson to hunt down the Sierra, he knew what most people in the animal welfare movement knew. No amount of government lobbying or any organization's letter-writing and petitioning could stop such a ruthless killer. Operating outside of any government control, Watson alone knew that sometimes it takes a pirate to catch a pirate.

When the Sierra was rammed, no crew-member was injured or killed, and before the crippled ship could be repaired, saboteurs blew it up in harbor. Not long after, two other pirate whalers operating out of Spain, the Isba 1 and Isba 2 were mined and sunk in harbor by the same Sea Shepherd agents.

The 1986 International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling was the product of years of campaigning. Letter-writing, petitioning, demonstrations, political lobbying and yes, even illegal direct action like the bombing of the Sierra, Isba 1 and 2, all played a vital role in convincing the IWC to outlaw commercial whaling. As is the case in most historical movements for change, it is not one tactic or strategy achieves victory, but the combi-

nation of all available avenues of action that brings about the change that public awareness alone cannot.

Despite the IWC moratorium, a few rogue whaling nations were quick to argue that loopholes existed that allowed them the right to continue the slaughter of the world's last great whales. Of these nations, in the summer of 1986, Iceland was the first to launch its whaling ships. Once more, the politically powerful economic interests of a handful of nations took precedent and circumvented our supposed victory. It was those of us operating outside of the matrix of government control that were left representing the whale nations and the task of accomplishing what politicians and mainstream organizations could not.

On a rainy November night in 1986, David Howitt and I boarded the Icelandic whaling ships, Hvalur 5 and Hvalur 6, not to chain ourselves to the harpoon cannons or block the ships departure, but to sink the pirate whalers while their crews slept onshore. Once again, no one was injured or killed in either the sinkings or our earlier demolition of the shore-based whaling station and, once again, the resulting media and political attention given to illegal direct action helped ensure that Iceland would never use these ships to kill whales again.

The sinking of pirate whalers were actions taken by normal people, not militarily funded and trained commandoes. It was our inability to trust politicians that left us with no other course but illegal direct action. It is never governments or well-funded organizations that affect revolutionary change, but the common people, unwilling to sit back any longer and watch what they love be destroyed.

For the animal liberation and radical environmental movements, support for illegal direct action has always been the position that separates us from our mainstream counterparts. It is because, without illegal direct action, much of the world, let alone the movement, would not be aware of the crimes committed on the high seas or behind the locked laboratory door by industries and governments whose greatest motivation is economic wealth at the expense of the natural world.

Illegal direct action in defense of the earth and her non-human people speaks to the abusers in the only language they have shown us that they understand - that of dollars and cents. To this day, no amount of scientific evidence or physical evidence of ecological destruction and animal abuse can compare to the media and political attention given to direct action. I wish this wasn't the case. I wish the destroyers of all life on earth were people

you could reason with. But when wealth and profit are a motivational force, morality and ethics are discarded like the entrails of a butchered whale.

We are in the midst of an ecological era where direct action to protect our fragile environment and animal liberation actions to prevent unspeakable cruelty will be the deeds of true heroes. Heroes like Paul Watson and Cleveland Amory, who cared not what obstructionists in mainstream animal welfare organizations like the Humane Society of the United States had to say about direct action tactics, but about the animal nations they proudly chose to represent.

It hasn't taken long for people in this movement to recognize that the sinking of pirate whaling ships was justified, and likewise, it won't take long for people in our movement to recognize that rescuing laboratory and fur farm prisoners and the destruction of their torture chambers is justifiable as well. That is, if the majority, not the minority, of activists in our movement are not afraid to stand by these courageous actions.

There is no shame in cheering when an empty factory or fur farm or animal research laboratory burns to the ground. We stand for the Animal Nations and our Earth Mother and no one else deserves consideration when we consider the tactics and strategies to represent them. Our constituents are the victims of a genocidal war that dwarfs any war waged against human beings.

Whether against pirate whaling nations like Japan and Norway, vivisectionists like Huntington Life Sciences, or timber companies like Pacific Lumber, now is the time once again when direct action groups like Sea Shepherd, the Earth and Animal Liberation Front stand the greatest chance of reminding animal abusers and earth exploiters and the governments that sanction their destruction that actions speak louder than any words.

True liberation and victory is rarely if ever won through legislation and polite lobbying. It is only through the ability to operate outside of government control that we are able to force politicians to address such issues as animal abuse and environmental destruction.

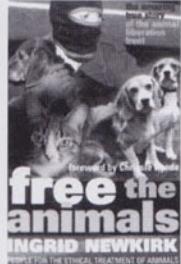
Until our society is ready to level the accusation of "terrorism" against all who practice violence, be they corporate, governmental, military or police, it is ridiculous to accuse those who have caused not a single death of the same. To the real terrorist, the nonviolent war of direct action against the weapons of mass destruction will continue. Animal Liberation now more than ever. Now is the time for actions not words!



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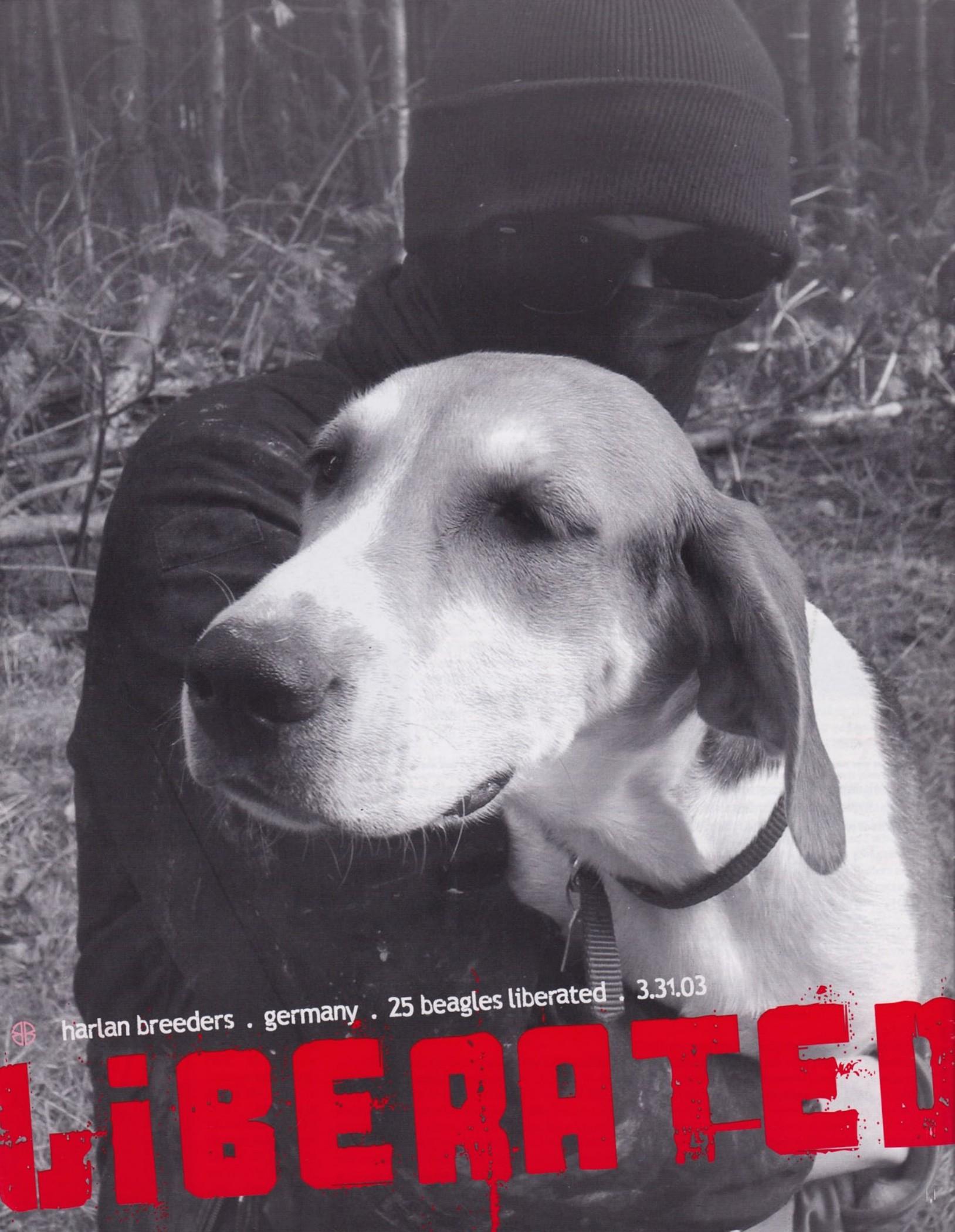
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